(d) if not, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No Sir. Total allocation made for elementary education, was Rs. 16892.50 crore for the year 2006-07 and Rs. 18626.00 crore for the year 2007-08.

(b) and (d) The funding pattern between Centre and States in the approved programme for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2001 was determined to be 85:15 in the Ninth Five Year Plan, 75:25 in the Tenth Five Year Plan and 50:50 in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Most State Governments have requested the Government of India to continue with the Tenth Plan funding pattern in the Eleventh Plan also.

Working of mid-day meal scheme

†785. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mid Day Meal Scheme under which students of the schools are provided lunch, is not working satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any discussion was held in this regard in the recently held conference of Education Ministers of States; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the Conference of State Education Ministers, the State Ministers agreed on the need to consolidate the initiatives taken over the past 2-½ years on the Mid Day Meal programme and to streamline delivery systems to ensure better management and distribution of food grains and other commodities required for serving a hot cooked meal. States were required to put in place mechanisms that would ensure that schools are not deprived of timely financial assistance to meet the daily requirements of running the programme.

(d) The Guidelines for Mid Day Meal Scheme was revised in 2006 and the following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the scheme:-

(i) The nutritional norm increased from 300 calories to 450 calories and protein content from 8-12 grams to 12 grams per child per school day.

(ii) Central assistance towards cooking cost in the case of States in North-East Region raised from Re. 1.00 per child/school day to Rs. 1.80 per child/school day provided the State Government contibutes a minimum of 20 paise. For other States and UTs, it is raised from Re. 1.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

per child/school day to Rs.1.50 per child/school day provided the State Government/UT Administration contributes a minimum of 50 paise.

(iii) Provision of Central assistance to construct kitchen-cum-store up to a maximum of Rs. 60,000/- per unit.

(iv) Provision of Central assistance for procurement and replacement of kitchen devices at an average cost of Rs. 5,000/- per unit.

Retaining documents of students

786. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has recently issued directives to institutions and universities against retaining school/institution leaving certificates, mark-sheets, caste certificates and other documents in original, preventing candidates from joining other institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Public notice in this regard was, issued and circulated by the UGC to all Universities, Deemed Universities and other Institutions under its purview. This was followed by another letter dated 4th June, 2007 to Universities and Deemed Universities.

The instructions issued by the UGC clearly stipulate that it is not permissible for institutions and universities to retain the School/Institution leaving Certificate, mark sheet, caste certificate and other documents in original, as it limits the opportunities for the candidates to join other institutions of their choice.

Financing norms for central universities

787. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued new guidelines to change the public finance norms to help Central Universities generate financial resources on their own;

(b) the details of the proposals which would allow the Central Universities to reduce their dependency syndrome;

(c) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission has put diverse hurdles in the way of Central Universities to grow;

(d) the details of objections of UGC in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the UGC has no new ideas in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) A scheme for creation